

Remarks

Claims 3, 5-23, 27-36, 47 and 48 are pending in the application, with claims 47 and 48 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4, 24-26 and 37-46 have been canceled.

Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 48 and 49 are allowed is gratefully noted.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5-25 and 27-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,830,126 to Ringe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,217,424 to Pallmann or U.S. Patent No. 975,563 to Morgan.

Claims 1, 2, 24, 25 and 37-46 have been canceled. The claims have been amended such that claims 3, 5-23 and 27-36 depend from an allowed claim. As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is moot, and the application is in condition for allowance.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested as placing the application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/038,575
Amendment dated March 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 10, 2004

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 3, 5-23, 27-36, 47 and 48 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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